REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Original claims 1, 5 through 10, 13 through 16 remain pending, claims 1, 5, 10 and 13 having been amended. Original claims 2, 3, 4 and 11, 12 have been cancelled, the subject matter of claims 2, 3, and 4 being incorporated into amended claim 1, and the subject matter of claims 11 and 12 being incorporated into amended claim 10. New claims 17 through 20 have been added. New independent claim 17 incorporates the subject matter of claims 10, 11, 12 and 13 which were determined to be allowable by the examiner.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for indefiniteness for failing to set forth a proper antecedent basis for the terms "the enhancer cup" and "the filter", respectively. Claim 4 has been cancelled, nevertheless, the term "enhancer cup" has been replaced with "enhancer recess" in amended claim 1. This term is used in the specification starting at paragraph 0020 and it more properly reflects the language found in the specification.

In claim 1 the term "the filter" is amended to reflect that the filter is cylindrical in shape and encircles the gas generator. In each case the terms have been amended to provide a proper antecedent basis. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1 -12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Loughlin et al 5,794,973.

The amended independent claims 1 and 10 have been redrafted to show the unique isolation of the first enhancer and the first gas generant relative to the first endcap, the second endcap and the housing in claim 1 and similarly the isolation of the second enhancer and the first and second gas generants relative the first endcap, second endcap and the housing in claim 10. In each case a burst foil is used to cover the enhancers and the retainer holes. The burst foils are located between the first or second enhancer retainer and the respective endcap. This spacing of components including the first gas generant from direct contact with the endcaps and the housing in combination with the foil covered enhancers provided a minimum distance which

creates a thermal delay or barrier to delay heat transfer from the external surfaces of the endcaps and the housing to the first or second gas generants during bonfire test as stated in paragraph 0031 of the specification. This is critical as stated at the last sentence of paragraph 0031.

As now claimed, the enhancers are isolated from and insulated by the space between the respective endcaps. Only upon a bursting of the foils can the enhancer material be exposed to the gas generants and these foils are located between the enhancer material and the endcaps. The prior art of O'Loughlin also used burst foils, but as shown these foils are between the enhancer and the generants and thus are not positioned as now claimed and therefore, are of no value in either isolating or insulating the enhancer from direct heat transfer through the endcaps.

For the reasons stated above, the rejection of the claims should be withdrawn.

With regard to claims 4, 6-9 and 10-12 relating to the second igniter, a second autoignition material (C1), a second enhancer and a second gas generant and a second retainer with a tubular portion and other specific features for allowing the passage of hot gases from the first or second enhancer to the first or second gas generants, the examiner noted O'Loughlin et al teaches each of these features.

As amended, it is clear that in claim 1 the first enhancer is isolated in the first enhancer recess and covered by a burst foil that when opened forces the hot gases to flow toward the first endcap through the retainer holes to reach and ignite the first generant. The burst foil is located in a space between the first endcap and the enhancer. Similarly in claim 10, a burst foil is positioned between the second enhancer and the second endcap and only when the foil is burst open can the hot gases move in the direction of the second endcap to the retainer holes to ignite the second gas generant. Accordingly O'Loughlin while having some of the elements comprising the claimed inflator does not have the location and structure configured as now claimed to provide the thermal barrier achieved in the present invention.

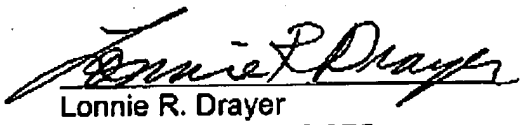
The examiner is requested to review the now claimed combinations in light of the

prior art teachings of O'Loughlin et al. O'Loughlin neither teaches nor suggests the combination as now claimed in claims 1 and 10 and accordingly the rejection to the dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Finally, the examiner noted claims 13 – 16 would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form. New claim 17 and dependent claims 18 – 20 correspond to those original claims the examiner stated were allowable.

For the reasons stated above, applicants respectfully request the examiner to withdraw each of the rejections and allow the application to pass to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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